



Dear Captains and Sailors of the Tall Ships Race 2024!

It is with great pleasure that we extend our invitation to you to visit the picturesque Käsmu village on the 9th of July 2024.

About Käsmu

Nestled on the Käsmu peninsula in Lahemaa National Park along the North Coast of Estonia, Käsmu is a vibrant seaside village steeped in history. First mentioned in 1524, the village, widely recognized as the Captains' Village, proudly commemorates its 500th jubilee this summer. Boasting a population of approximately 150 permanent inhabitants, this number swells during the summer months.

The legacy of Käsmu's shipbuilders extended globally, as ships from Käsmu and its vicinity sailed across all seas. In 1923, the Käsmu Ship-Owners Ltd. was founded, owning and operating seven cargo steamers, seven large sailing ships, and two motor sailing ships by 1940. The village earned its moniker as the "village of captains" with 62 captains per 100 households in 1930.

Situated in the heart of the Lahemaa nature reserve, Käsmu boasts breathtaking nature, a scenic coastline, sandy beaches, and Estonia's largest stone field. Massive boulders, remnants of continental glaciers from 10,000 years ago, dot the landscape. Notably, Matsikivi, the largest local stone, stands at 4.8 meters in height and 14.7 meters in circumference. The State Forest Management Centre has established numerous hiking and biking trails for exploration.



Unique Features of Käsmu

Käsmu stands as an exemplary Estonian seaside village, preserving its integrity and pristine appearance through a dedicated heritage protection policy. Notably, the village has been a hub for sailing ship construction since 1697. Large sailing ships were constructed in the latter half of the 19th century, with Käsmu shipbuilders accumulating significant wealth. This prosperity facilitated the establishment of a maritime school in 1884.



Facilities and Hospitality

For the convenience of residents and guests, Käsmu offers several motels and homestays, a well-stocked store, a restaurant, a community house with a spacious hall, and a sauna in the harbour. Käsmu harbour provides limited berth places for ships with drafts up to 1.5 meters, along with buoys near the harbour offering good shelter from storms and a solid clay bottom for anchoring.

Special Event – Käsmu 500 Years!

As part of the 500th jubilee celebrations, a folk party is planned for the **9th of July**, featuring folk musicians and a bonfire evening at the village's edge where old sea chanties will resonate.



Warm Welcome

Haljala Municipality, Käsmu Village, and the local Maritime Museum eagerly anticipate hosting the vessels and crews of Tall Ships Race 2024. Further details of the event, along with a list of activities for crews to register, will be provided. We are honoured to extend our hospitality and ensure that every visitor has a remarkable and unforgettable experience.



We extend a warm welcome to host part of the Tall Ships Race 2024 vessels at Käsmu harbour, ensuring safe anchoring. A dedicated dinghy service will be provided between vessels and the harbour, and special activities are planned for participants and young sailors of the Tall Ships race.

Activities for Visiting Sailors:

- Guided hiking and bicycle trips in Käsmu forests and near Käsmu lake.
- Manor house tours to Palmse and Sagadi.
Visit [Lahemaa - Manors](#)
- Visit to Käsmu's Maritime Museum.
[Käsmu Maritime Museum](#)
- Screening of the documentary "AHTO. CHASING A DREAM" in the community house. [Ahto Film](#) (Ahto Valter, the first Estonian sailor to circumnavigate the globe under sails, spent his childhood in Käsmu and graduated from Käsmu Marine School in the 1920s).
- Käsmu Captains' Village 500 Years celebration party

Sincerely,

Anti Puusepp, mayor of the Haljala municipality
anti.puusepp@haljala.ee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Puusepp'.

Eduard Vainu, the Käsmu village headman
eduardvainu@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eduard Vainu'.



HALJALA VALD

